

The church struggles with the initial growing pains felt by many new establishments during their formative years. Finally, in August 1954, Rev. Timothy Fennel became pastor to the nearly 100 members and rapidly strengthened the organization's membership and infrastructure.

Under the leadership and guidance of Reverend Fennel, the Solid Rock Baptist Church ordained five deacons and initiated a number of auxiliary functions, including the creation of the missionary circle, deaconess board senior choir, gospel chorus, junior choir, usher board busy bees, and M club. The church also provided assistance to area hospitals and the surrounding community through its pastor's aides, nurses aides, youth guild, Sunday school Bible class, and prayer meetings.

After a life of dedication to the Solid Rock Baptist Church, Reverend Fennel passed away on September, 23, 1976. However, Mr. Speaker, he left the church with a meaningful legacy and vivacious future. In the 1980's, under the leadership of Reverend Shearin, the church initiated a number of remodeling projects. He also established the stewardship and Bible study programs.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the Solid Rock Baptist Church built such a strong presence in the community that they no longer had to look outside the organization for guidance. The church elected a favorite son as pastor in 1996.

Rev. Jack Lotts has been a member of the Solid Rock Baptist Church since his return from military duty in 1961. He graduated in 1987 with a certificate in christian ministry from the New York Theological Seminary in New York City and was ordained on October 29, 1989. Throughout his tenure with the church, Reverend Lotts has exhibited the commitment to the spiritual growth and development demonstrated by Reverend Fennel and the original founders of the church. He is certainly the right man to lead the Solid Rock Baptist church into its next 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to help me salute the Solid Rock Baptist Church for its historic achievements, and pray for its continued success in the future.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE GREG LASHUTKA

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Greg Lashutka, the mayor of Columbus, OH, on the occasion of his earning the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award [DESA]. Through the course of my 18 years of public service, I have had the privilege of working closely with Mayor Lashutka and can thus attest firsthand to his unparalleled devotion to the betterment of the city of Columbus, his tireless involvement in civic activities, and his remarkable commitment to God and family. Mayor Lashutka truly embodies the spirit of this extraordinary award.

The highest award administered by the National Eagle Scout Association, the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award honors an elite few who have achieved a state of eminence through their chosen careers and lifeworks. Recipients are determined by the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award Committee, which is comprised entirely of previous DESA winners. The selection process is rigorous and deliberate, and a substantial percentage of nominations is declined. Among those honored with the DESA include former President Gerald R. Ford, several governors, CEO's of Fortune 500 companies, nationally known doctors, lawyers, and educators, and some of my colleagues in this body. Mayor Greg Lashutka will be only the second Distinguished Eagle Scout Award winner in central Ohio.

In 1958, a 14-year-old Greg Lashutka was awarded the Eagle Scout Award at the Bethany English Lutheran Church in Cleveland, OH. Thirty-seven years later, Mayor Lashutka has rightfully earned the admiration and respect of all those with whom he has come in contact. His resume reflects his all-American experience: Co-Captain of the 1965 Ohio State University football team; a decorated naval officer in Vietnam; city attorney for the city of Columbus; a successful private attorney with a prestigious Columbus firm; and finally mayor of the 16th largest city in the United States. Under his adept leadership, Columbus has grown profoundly, becoming nationally renowned for its crime prevention, cultural activities, international trade, and business-friendly environment. His innovative and thoughtful leadership has earned Columbus a designation as an All-American City in 1992, and himself the honors of 1996 president of the National League of Cities as well as 1993 Municipal Leader of the Year Award from American City and County Magazine.

Equally important, however, is Mayor Lashutka's social and civic involvement. His active participation in countless organizations and groups—often as a board member or as chairman—is truly remarkable. The mayor devotes much of his already scarce time to the Boy Scouts of America; the boys and girls clubs of Columbus; the Columbus Civic Center Committee; the Columbus Urban League; the Heart Fund; the Big Brother Association of Columbus; the German Village Society; the Central Ohio Chapter of the March of Dimes; and other outstanding, philanthropic organizations. Mayor Lashutka is happily married to Catherine Adams and is a loving father of four.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating my good friend, Mayor Greg Lashutka, for being awarded the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, and in recognition of his astonishing lifelong service to the city of Columbus.

HONORING CHIEF JUDGE NORMAN W. BLACK

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 10, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Honorable Norman W. Black, Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, as he prepares to assume senior status later this year.

Judge Black's 16 years as a U.S. district judge cap a career of service to his country, to his community, to education, and to the practice of law. His career has been marked by a deep commitment to integrity, hard work, fairness, honesty, and justice.

Judge Black obtained both his undergraduate and legal education at the University of Texas. He served in the U.S. Army Military Police from 1955 to 1957 before beginning his legal career as an assistant U.S. attorney. Later, he participated in the formation of the law firm of Black, Hebinck, Hargorve & Clark. He engaged in private practice from 1959 to 1976.

In 1976, he was appointed U.S. Magistrate for the Southern District of Texas. In 1979, President Carter appointed him U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas at the recommendation of Senator Lloyd Bentsen, and he has served as chief judge since October 1992.

Each year, the Houston Bar Association evaluates all sitting judges in Harris County, including U.S. district court judges. Judge Black routinely rates as one of the top judges in every category evaluated by members of the trial bar who practice in the various courts.

The best testaments to Judge Black's achievements come from his colleagues and those who have practiced before him. I want to quote from some of their statements nominating Judge Black in 1995 for the Samuel Pessarra Outstanding Jurist Award.

Attorney David Beck, who has appeared before Judge Black, stated, "I have always found Judge Black to be objective and even-handed in his rulings and courteous to all litigants and their counsel. He rules decisively and timely, works extremely hard, and is knowledgeable of the law, which is no easy task given the numerous substantive areas to which our judges are consistently exposed."

Chief Judge Henry A. Politz of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Judicial Circuit, had this to say about Judge Black: "On the administrative level, he is nothing short of a marvel. * * * I wish all of our judges had his keen instinct for what is right in just about every situation."

Attorney James B. Sales stated, "A universal comment is that he possesses impeccable integrity, fairness, and honesty. Indeed, he is the epitome of the kind of judge that we all admire and hold as the standard by which to measure others who aspire to the Bench."

In addition to his commitment to law, Judge Black has contributed tremendously to education and to our community. He has taught at the University of Houston School of Law, the University of Cincinnati, and the South Texas College of Law, where he currently is adjunct professor. He is much-loved by his students, and his seminar is always the first one closed because of over-subscription.

Judge Black's contributions to his community include membership in the Houston Philosophical Society, as well as the Federal, Texas, Houston, and American Bar Associations. He has been instrumental in developing mentoring and fellowship programs to encourage interest in and knowledge of the law. Judge Black also has been active in many of our community's religious and cultural institutions. Despite these many commitments, Judge Black has always found time to be a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Judge Black will be sorely missed by all who have worked with him, all who value the law, and all who appreciate his fairness and integrity. We wish him well.